

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

-----114400 211220Z /13

R 201301Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0654

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 0769

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, KN, KS, SE

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS WITH SEYCHELLES

REF: A) SEOUL 10607, B) NAIROBI 15868, C) VICTORIA 0747

1. EMBASSY DISAGREES WITH ROK MOFA PERCEPTION OF GOS APPROACH TO EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND ASSESSMENT IN REFTEL A THAT SEYCHELLES PRESENT RELATIONS WITH PRC ARE "COZY." IN NEARLY TEN MONTHS SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC EMBASSY (AT CHARGE LEVEL) IN SEYCHELLES LAST MARCH, PRC DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY LOW-KEY AND SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS WITH GOS OFFICIALS FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. RESIDENT MISSION HAS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY PREOCCUPIED WITH PURCHASE OF COMPOUND AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE START-UP TASKS. FIRST AND ONLY INDICATION OF POSSIBLE PRC DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE IS VAGUE OFFER IN HEALTH FIELD MADE TWO WEEKS AGO.

2. WHILE NOT DISCOUNTING POSSIBLE ROLE OF NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR JANG-IL-MAN IN DISRUPTING GOS-ROK RELATIONS (INDEED, WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF NORTH KOREANS DID NOT ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE ROK POSITION), WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF APPARENT PRESENT FRICTION IS ESSENTIALLY NON-IDEOLOGICAL AND CENTERS ON  
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FISHERIES QUESTION. IF SEYCHELLES REMAINS UNCOMPENSATED FOR "POACHING" BY SOUTH KOREAN TRAWLERS IN WATERS CLAIMED BY SEYCHELLES, IMPROVEMENT IN GOS-ROK RELATIONS IS NOT LIKELY. IT IS ALSO WORTH RECALLING THAT DECISION TO ACCEPT NON-RESIDENT NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR WAS MADE BY DEPOSED "PRO-WESTERN" PRESIDENT MANCHAM WHO ACCEPTED JANG-IL-MAN'S CREDENTIALS MAY 14, THREE WEEKS BEFORE JUNE 5 COUP D'ETAT WHICH TOPPLED HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT MOFA HAS RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM ROK EMBASSY IN NAIROBI REQUESTING INITIAL VISIT BY ROK AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE IN EARLY JANUARY. REQUEST AWAITING GOS DECISION.

5. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE IT PRUDENT FOR U.S. TO REMAIN DISTANT FROM GOS-ROK BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND DEFERS TO DEPARTMENT'S JUDGEMENT WHETHER INFORMATION IN REFTEL C SHOULD BE RELEASED TO SOUTH KOREANS AS REQUESTED REFTEL A.  
MATTSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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